

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER OCT 30 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
First Baptist Peddie Memorial Church (Peddie Church)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
(First Baptist)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broad Street and Fulton Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Newark

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34** COUNTY: **Essex** CODE: **013**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
First Baptist Peddie Memorial Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broad Street and Fulton Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Newark

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE:
34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Essex County Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
High Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Newark

STATE:
New Jersey

CODE:
34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
H.A.B.S. -

DATE OF SURVEY: **c. 1960** ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

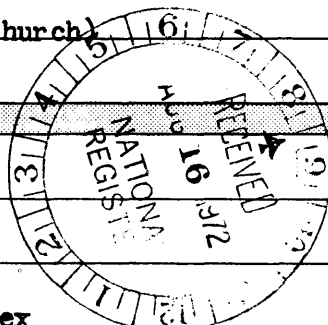
STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: New Jersey	COUNTY: Essex	ENTRY NUMBER OCT 30 1972	DATE
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CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered		☐ Moved	☒ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Essentially unaltered exterior, excepting tile roof replaced by slate (which obscures further the relationship to the Pisa Baptistery as the prototype, with much modification). A statue of Gabriel blowing a long trumpet - once atop the dome - was a storm casualty many years ago.

The vistas toward the church from along Broad Street and Central Avenue - with the nearby open spaces of Washington and Military Parks - are very impressive.

The exterior is mostly of rugged rough-hewn light brown granite - probably "pink granite". There are 3 vigorously treated granite towers - 2 on the front corners and 1 on the side street rear. The corner entrances and the main convex-curved arcade of the center entrances are of rough-hewn granite arches, of monastic effect, rising from polished "pink granite" columns capped with capitals which are Byzantine or Egyptian.

Sculptured gargoyles and heads adorn the exterior, and are echoed in the original metal fittings of the interior. The arcade archways are graced with the decorous latticed effect of lacy metal grillwork gates.

The huge curved Baptist meetinghouse interiors of the late 19th Century got a unique addition when Peddie's interior was done in Byzantine with many curious modifications. Some of the interior walls are of various stones and brickwork, but the almost circular balcony and other fittings are predominantly of wood - medium-dark stained - giving a very restful and subdued effect which is still, typically, confused in its elements and various decorative touches, but this might often be said of Byzantine interiors, also, with the variety of art works at St. Mark's, Venice (brought from afar) for example, being notable. Thus we have an upper level pulpit or lectern (not the central pulpit) with its lectern mounted on a large wood-carved spread eagle. Above (behind) the pulpit enclosing the baptismal pool and below it on the main floor are convex-curved seats for the clergy of (cushioned) pink marble, with arcaded columned semi-domed niches - which again echo the entrance arcade and, perhaps, the prototype Pisa Baptistery.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☒ 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) founded 1801, built 1888-90			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Aboriginal	☐ Education	☒ Political	☒ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☒ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☒ Sculpture	
☒ Architecture	☐ Landscape	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☒ Art	☐ Architecture	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Literature	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Military		
☐ Conservation	☐ Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Unquestionably, this church is of national significance as a unique and robust Byzantine-Romanesque example of the Richardson Romanesque Era. It is irreplaceable.

It is so cited in Gowans and, since the demolition of the extraordinary old Prudential buildings it is New Jersey's most unique edifice of Byzantine-Romanesque of the rugged Richardsonian influence.

It also is a noted work by noted architect William Halsey Wood, Newark.

The church, founded in 1801, is the oldest Baptist congregation in the city - and has absorbed the members of other churches including South Baptist and Clinton Avenue Baptist.

The church was the gift of Newark Mayor Thomas B. Peddie, for whom the church became a memorial in his name. He was a Scotsman, a prominent Newark industrialist, active church member, and philanthropist, with Peddie School in Hightstown, New Jersey also bearing his name. The church location, a fine asset, is also its greatest threat: potential commercial encroachment. There are extraordinary vistas of the church as it anchors Broad Street at its bend at the north end of Military Park - with the overall setting not totally unlike that of St. Basil's - Moscow, at the head of Red Square. It is also at the head of Central Avenue.

/ The church was styled in very free adaptation, with many additions, such as three towers, reputedly, from the Baptistery of Pisa, Italy (of the Cathedral group which includes the famed Leaning Tower also)./ If this seems obscure, more credence can be lent to it by a comparison of photos - in the case of Peddie Church using old photo(s) of the church when it had its dome in tiles, suggestive of the tiled Pisa dome, before Peddie's dome was covered by slate. The arcaded entrances of Peddie also simulate Pisa.

Congressional Representation
Harrison Williams - U.S. Senator
Clifford Case - U.S. Senator
Peter W. Rodino Jr. - Congressman (10th Congressional District)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Church anniversary booklet, 1951 (150th anniversary) Architecture
in New Jersey, Alex Gowans, University of Delaware

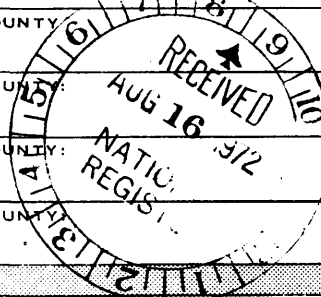
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40 ° 44 ' 29 "	74 ° 10 ' 08 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		hist-
Donald W. Geyer, licensed "professional planner", and architectural orian		
ORGANIZATION	DATE	
	6/9/71	
STREET AND NUMBER:		
351 Broad Street		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Newark	New Jersey	34

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name: Richard J. Sullivan
Richard J. Sullivan

Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: May 12, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

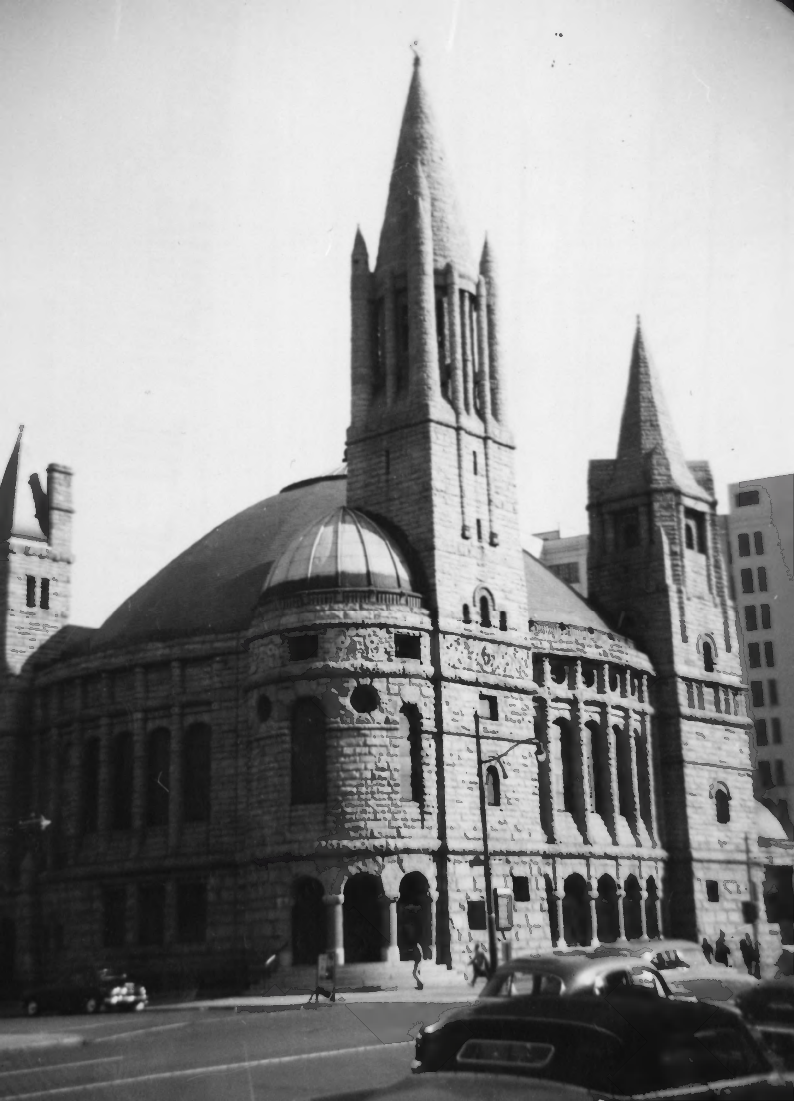
Robert W. Geyer
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/30/72

ATTEST: William M. Smith
Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER OCT 30 1972	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: First Baptist Peddie Memorial Church (Peddie Church)			
AND/OR HISTORIC: First Baptist			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Broad Street and Fulton Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Newark			
STATE: New Jersey	CODE 34	COUNTY: Essex	CODE 013
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Donald W. Geyer			
DATE OF PHOTO: c. 1952			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Donald Geyer			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. front diagonal, from northwest			

